

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 701

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 3194

POUCHED INFO ALL CONSULATES IN CANADA

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, CA, VN

SUBJ: CANADIAN RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM

REF: A. STATE 190165; B. OTTAWA 2826

1. IN GENERAL DISCUSSIONS WITH LOUIS ROGERS, DIRECTOR-GENERAL ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS, EXTAFF, AND DEREK BURNEY, DIRECTOR, PACIFIC DIVISION, EXTAFF, EMBOFFS RAISED SUBJECT OF RECENT VIETNAM APPROACHES TO GOC. ROGERS SAID THAT VIETNAMESE DELEGATION, LED BY AMBASSADOR TO CUBA, HA VAN LOU, WOULD BE IN OTTAWA SEPTEMBER 27 TO DISCUSS NATURE OF RELATIONS BETWEEN VIETNAM AND GOC (REF A).

2. ROGERS NOTED THAT EXTAFF HAS NOT FORMULATED FIRM POSITIONS FOR MEETING WITH VN REPS. WITH RESPECT TO VIETNAMESE EMBASSY IN OTTAWA, GOC IS CONCERNED WITH POTENTIAL FOR DISRUPTIVE ACTIVITIES BY EMBASSY STAFF AMONG VIETNAMESE COMMUNITY IN CANADA. WITH THIS IN MIND, GOC WILL LIMIT SIZE OF STAFF PERMITTED. PRESUMABLY, THEY WILL ALSO SEEK ASSURANCES FROM VIETNAMESE ON THIS.

3. ROGERS ADDED THAT GOC ALSO UNDECIDED ABOUT EXTENDING BILATERAL AID TO VIETNAM. HE SAID THAT VIETNAMESE WILL
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EXPECT AND POSSIBLY DEMAND THIS SINCE, AS HE PUT IT,

THEY VIEW CANADA AS A SUPPORTER OF THE U.S. EFFORTS IN VIETNAM AND FEEL THAT GOC "OWES" THEM AID. HE QUIPPED THAT, AS USUAL, THERE WAS A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION BETWEEN EXTAFF AND THE CANADIAN INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AGENCY (CIDA) ON AID QUESTION. ROGERS NOTED THAT LATTER ALWAYS TAKES LINE THAT AID SHOULD BE GIVEN WHERE NEEDED. EXTAFF, HOWEVER, BEFORE SUPPORTING BILATERAL AID PROGRAM, WANTS ASSURANCES FROM VIETNAMESE THAT THEY DO NOT INTEND TO INTERFERE IN AFFAIRS OF NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES. FURTHER, GOC IS SENSITIVE TO NEIGHBORING COUNTRY REACTION TO GOC AID PROGRAM WHAT-EVER VIETNAMESE ASSURANCES. ROGERS NOTED THAT MIN EXTAFF MACEACHEN'S TRIP TO NEW ZEALAND, AUSTRALIA, INDONESIA AND MALAYSIA (AUG 20 -SEPT. 7) SHOULD PROVIDE IMPRESSIONS FROM ASEAN COUNTRIES.
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